

The 1861 Federal act to organize Nevada Territory provided for a territorial governor, appointed by the U.S. President, who would

- Commission all officers who would be appointed to office under the laws of said Territory
- Cause a census of the Territory to be taken
- Declare the number of members of the House of Representatives and Council to which each of the districts was entitled
- Set the time and place for the meeting of the first Territorial Legislature
- Define the judicial districts, appoint judges, and establish the time and place for holding court sessions
- Establish the time and places for the conduct of elections of a delegate to the U.S. Congress
- Appoint notaries public

James Warren Nye, 1861-1864

James Nye was the only governor of Nevada Territory. He was born in DeRuyter, Madison County, New York, on June 10, 1815. Raised in New York, he was President of the New York Metropolitan Board of Police when he received his appointment from President Abraham Lincoln. He left his family in New York during his term in office in Nevada, 1861-1864, but was frequently in the east, leaving Territorial Secretary Orion Clemens as acting governor. Nye was permanently reunited with his family when he was chosen one of Nevada's first U.S. Senators. He served from 1864-1872. Nye died on December 25, 1876 in White Plains, New York.

